



Environmental Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Facility (TAIEF)

This project is financed by the European Union

Expert Mission to Chile: “Sustainability Week: Business meeting and International Conference”, 27 – 30/09/2016

INTRODUCTION

This international event, sponsored by Chile’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its ProChile Programme, offered a unique opportunity for TAIEF to share EU experiences with green growth. The aim of the event was to highlight the key role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for advancing sustainable development globally. The programme included workshops in Santiago and Temuco, as well as focus group meetings and field trips.

Special thanks are extended to the following individuals who facilitated TAIEF support, and ensured the success of the event:

- Luis Martínez Cerna, Head of Sustainable Trade Department, ProChile (Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Daniela Acuña, Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, ODEPA (Ministry of Agriculture)
- Sophie Behrmann, Trade Officer, Delegation of the European Union in Chile

Special thanks are also extended to the experts fielded by TAIEF:

- Professor Martin Charter, Director, The Centre for Sustainable Design, University for the Creative Arts, UK
- Klaus K. Sall, Sall&Sall Advisors (ecological agriculture)

Mission Objectives:

Share EU experiences concerning the advancement of:

- Eco-innovation, circular economy
- Market opportunities for ecological farming

Links: <http://www.prochile.gob.cl/landing/sustentabilidad/>, <https://bureo.co/>, <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/discover/programme/index_en.htm, <http://www.ecocouncil.dk/en/front-page>, <http://www.fao.org/sustainability/en/>, <https://repaircafe.org/en/>

Concerted international effort needed to achieve sustainable development

Sustainable development depends on private sector innovation. SMEs play a pivotal role in charting sustainable development paths both as drivers of innovation and because they are embedded in global supply chains which increasingly must meet sustainable development criteria.

The event addressed green growth issues of greatest relevance to the competitiveness of Chilean SMEs. Topics included ecological farming, eco-innovation, eco-design, cleaner production, sustainable development goals and corporate social responsibility.

Growing global demand for organic foods and sustainable agriculture requires:

- Green growth: Growth based on minimizing both pollution and climate footprint
- Biodiversity: Enhancing biodiversity and soil fertility through conservation measures and restoring natural landscapes and wilderness areas.
- Rural livelihoods: Improving these to bolster equity and social well-being

Danish experiences are of great interest in this regard. Klaus Sall showed how economic growth and exports in the

Danish agricultural sector reflect a transition to sustainable production methods.

Martin Charter offered a variety of developments relating to eco-design. The global network of “repair cafés” dedicated to repairing rather than disposing of goods, received considerable interest. The success of the Chilean-American organisation Bureo (recycling of fishing nets and marine plastics into consumer products) illustrated the synergy between environmental and business ambitions.



The seminar was supplemented with field trips and meetings such as Martin Charter’s meeting with Bureo, right.

On the whole, “Sustainability Week” succeeded in demonstrating how important it is for SMEs to understand their operations in the global context, and open business opportunities by proactively embracing green growth. In

Disclaimer

This summary has been written at the request of the Commission for the TAIEF project, based on information received from national partners and the EU Member State Experts who undertook the mission. It does not represent the views of the EU Member States, or the Commission.



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In addition to strengthening networks for sharing ideas and information this event also facilitated introductions that could grow into strategic alliances.

FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up possibilities:

- **Continued international exchanges:** Achieving a circular economy requires active international collaboration and sharing of experiences. Chilean stakeholders expressed great interest in further exchanges with the EU.

CONTACT

Email: taief@niras-ic.pl, Tel. +48 223957110, Skype: taief.project

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/taief/index_en.htm

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